DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 405 984 PS 025 175

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TITLE Real Parents, Real Children: Parenting the Adopted Child.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-8245-1514-5
PUB DATE 97
NOTE 279p.
AVAILABLE FROM Crossroad Publishing, Spring Arbor Distributors, 815 Industrial Road, Newport, TN 37821; phone: 800-395-7234 (clothbound: ISBN-0-8245-1368-1; paperback: ISBN-0-8245-1514-5, plus shipping).
PUB TYPE Guides - Non-Classroom Use (055) -- Books (010)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Adolescents; *Adopted Children; *Adoption; Adults; Child Development; *Childhood Needs; *Child Rearing; Children; *Emotional Adjustment; Family Counseling; Family Environment; Infants; *Parent Child Relationship; Student Adjustment
IDENTIFIERS Historical Background

ABSTRACT

Parenting an adopted child is, for the most part, the same as parenting any other child, but is different in some unique and critical ways related to the child's separation from birth parents and genetic roots. Understanding how a child interprets, understands, and feels about adoption, and why, can help the parent guide the adopted child struggling with issues of his or her adoption. Intended to help adoptive parents help their children, and identify when to seek professional help for resolving emotional issues, this book explores issues of adoption and adjustment for both adopted children and adoptive parents. Chapters in the first section of the book examine characteristics of parenting adopted children, such as bonding, grief and loss, and pre-placement and post-placement stress on the parents. Chapters in the second section explore developmental stages of childhood from early infancy through preschool, middle years, and adolescence. Each of these chapters includes discussion of the family life cycle for that age level, the impact of placement at this age, and how to address difficulties in adjustment. Additional chapters in this section assess the influence of adoption on school performance, examine adoption issues in adulthood, and discuss family factors contributing to a successful adoption. Each chapter contains sources for further reading. (HTH)

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